

# DISCOVER

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EVERY AIRMAN A FORCE MULTIPLIER

Vol. 30, No. 7 - Friday, April 7, 2006 - Brooks City-Base, TX

for dominant air and space power

## FUTURE BALLERS



Photo by Kendahl Johnson

Two-year-old twins, Deja (left) and Damion, are preparing at an early age for a future in basketball. The twins are the children of Brooks varsity basketball coach 1st Lt. Damion Byrd. The men's team finished its season last week at the Southwest Military Basketball League tournament. The team was 1-2 in the tourney, falling in the final seconds of its last game (see story on page 17).

## USAFSAM's EMEDS team aids war materiel readiness in Korea

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Expeditionary Medical Support is blazing a new trail in helping prepare warfighters for planned contingencies through a U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine initiative that is ensuring the readiness of pre-positioned Air Force medical equipment in the Republic of South Korea.

Since March 2005, EMEDS staff from Brooks City-Base have supported a Pacific Air Force request to verify the operability and medical worthiness of equipment warehoused at five locations throughout the country.

"They've never been tested. Because these hospitals are warehoused, they are considered war readiness materiel," said Capt. Steven Keifer, Public Health OIC for USAFSAM's Contingency Operations Division. He said PACAF had warehoused the untested hospital equipment since 2001.

"It's a hospital out of a box," Captain Keifer said in describing the EMEDS concept of highly

mobile transportable hospitals that were developed by USAFSAM during the late 1990s.

The idea for EMEDS, Captain Keifer said, was born out of the lessons learned during the first Persian Gulf War. During Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, air transportable hospitals used then were too heavy and logistically challenging. Several aircraft were needed to transport them.

"Today, we have a smaller footprint on the Air Force medical service side," said Captain Keifer, referring to EMEDS full service hospital operations that uses a series of interconnecting Alaskan shelters. "EMEDS treats and stabilizes patients before they are aeromedically evacuated," Captain Keifer noted.

The basic EMEDS hospital fits on a C-130, while its 10-bed and 25-bed versions are transported in the C-17. USAFSAM trains Air Force personnel in EMEDS operations. "Our primary mission is to teach students to prepare to deploy EMEDS," Captain Keifer said.

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## Japan-based AFIOH unit earns Brooks' top award

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Detachment 3 of the Air Force Institute for Operational Health stationed at Kadena Air Base, Japan, made history in March when it earned the highest honor Brooks City-Base can bestow – the 311th Human Systems Wing Director's Award.

Its presentation overseas was a first since the award's inception in January 1995. Lieutenant Colonel Will Rogers, Detachment 3 commander, accepted the award from Mr. Eric Stephens, 311th HSW director.

The only other time the award has been presented to a unit outside of Brooks was in March 1997 when the honor, then known as the 311th HSW Commander's Award, was presented to three Armstrong Laboratory employees stationed at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

Its most recent presentation also made history in that AFIOH became the first organization to earn the award consecutively. Its Theater Epidemiology Team was the previous winner of the honor, which is presented quarterly. AFIOH units have won the award three out of the last four times and have won it seven times overall.

"It was long overdue for Det. 3 to be recognized for their accomplishments," said AFIOH's Chief Master Sergeant Doug Durn, who accompanied Mr. Stephens, Col. James Neville and

Command Chief Master Sergeant Reggie Williams to Japan for the award ceremony.

Chief Durn said Det. 3 has a long history of exceptional service to the Pacific Air Force. The unit was originally stationed at Clark AB, The Philippines and moved to Kadena AB in Okinawa in June 1991.

Det. 3 earned the honor on the strength of several initiatives as PACAF's subject matter experts on environment safety and occupational health. Chief Durn said among its key contributions was the unit's evaluation of the potential health effects from a new state-of-the-art Mobile X-Ray Inspection System used in detecting explosive devices and contraband hidden in vehicles.

The unit was also cited for its work in identifying the potential health risks and workers' exposures associated with coal dust at Eielson AFB in Fairbanks, Alaska. "Eielson has a coal-burning heating plant," Chief Durn explained. He said the detachment's efforts prevented a possible Notice of Violation from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Detachment 3's other notable contribution was deploying a public health officer to provide food safety and sanitation expertise that supported Cope India 2006, joint Indian and U.S. Air Force exercise. That initiative prevented a potential outbreak of food-borne illnesses.



Courtesy photo

Mr. Eric Stephens, 311th Human Systems Wing director, presents the Director's Award to Lt. Col. Will Rogers, Detachment 3 commander at Kadena Air Base, Japan.

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Brooks T-Bird enthusiast — Page 15



Brooks scientist wins DoD award — Page 12

## RETAIL GATE TO OPEN

A new Brooks gate, located on the east side of the base, will open April 15 at 6 a.m. According to Brooks Development Authority officials, the West Gate will close that same day. Hours for the Hill Gate will remain the same. "We would appreciate everyone's patience and flexibility as we transition to the use of the Retail Gate," said Mike Quinn of the BDA.





# DISCOVERY

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## NSPS may mean slight pay hike for most

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

Most of the first 11,000 Defense Department civilian employees to convert to the new civilian personnel system in April will receive a pay increase, an official said today.

About 85 percent of people will see an initial bump in pay when they are enrolled in the new National Security Personnel System, or NSPS, said Joyce Frank, spokeswoman for the system.

The first employees to make the switch in "Spiral 1.1" of the phase-in process will automatically convert to the new system April 30, she said. "No one loses pay" as they convert from the old civil service system to the new pay-for-performance NSPS. Most, in fact, will qualify for a one-time, prorated within-grade increase buy-in.

Employees in Step 9 or lower of their current civil service GS grade and with acceptable performance will receive credit toward their next scheduled within-grade step increase, Ms. Frank explained. The credit will be based on the number of days accumulated toward the increase and will be factored in for eligible employees before their positions are converted to pay bands.

The NSPS Web site will offer a conversion tool within the next few days so employees can determine where

they will fall in the pay band system when their positions convert to NSPS, Ms. Frank said. Another new feature on the Web site will be a Web-based training program for employees to learn about NSPS.

A new publication on the Web site, to be issued in hard copy to Spiral 1.1 employees, explains details of the new system, which ultimately will affect more than 650,000 DOD civilian employees.

"HR Elements for Managers, Supervisors and Employees: A Guide to NSPS," gives employees an overview of the critical elements they need to understand as they convert to NSPS, Ms. Frank said. It covers pay increases and bonuses, pay bands and job objectives, among other topics.

On the guide's opening page, Mary Lacey, program executive officer for the NSPS, encourages employees to work with their supervisors to establish job objectives and discuss evaluation criteria and how to improve their on-the-job performance.

"NSPS is a system that is good for the department and it is good for you," Ms. Lacey wrote. "It will strengthen our ability to accomplish our national security mission and provide opportunities to enhance your personal growth and development."

Implementation of the new system represents "the beginning of a long journey for all of us, and we will learn from one another," she wrote.

## COMMENTARY

### Backsliding is not an option

By Kendahl Johnson

Discovery editor

When Diane Gonzales, director of the Civilian Health Population Service at the Brooks Health and Wellness Center, emailed me requesting a meeting, I knew I was in trouble. How did she know I had been backsliding on my weight management program and that I had missed a week of exercising? Does she have spies on base watching me?

I sheepishly met with Ms. Gonzales and admitted my slothfulness. It wasn't a surprise to her. "I just had this vibe that you were slacking," she said with a grin. Rather than being disappointed, she reminded me that things get very difficult three months into any resolution or long-term goal. She said the most important thing is to not get discouraged, but to rededicate myself to the goals set in January. We had a really good discussion about some of the reasons people backslide in weight management programs and how to overcome these obstacles in the future.

"The number one reason for backsliding is discouragement with slow progress," Ms. Gonzales said. "People want quick results and when the weight isn't coming off fast enough, despite all the hard work and effort, they get discouraged and give up. Be patient and don't get discouraged."

Boredom is another reason people backslide. The monotony of a particular exercise routine can lead to boredom and discouragement and cause people to lose enthusiasm. Ms. Gonzales suggests continually changing it up by trying new recipes or different exercise routines.

Another cause of backsliding is forgetting to break up a long-term goal into manageable chunks. I remembered a discussion about goal setting I had with Capt. Cynthia Pouncey. "The most important thing in achieving a long-term goal is to focus on short-term objectives to determine how you will reach your long-term goal," she said.

Unfortunately, I failed to follow the advice of the good captain and focus on short-term objectives. My goal is to lose 70 pounds over the course of one year. Sustaining an exercise and weight management program for one year is tough, but continually setting weekly and monthly goals makes it manageable. It's also not enough to just set short-term goals — the goals must be obtain-

able. If goals are unrealistic, the result may often be discouragement and even depression, both being counterproductive to losing weight.

Failing to set short-term and realistic goals in weight management programs and other physical wellness efforts can result in discouragement, which leads to backsliding. But even those who are working hard, setting short-term goals and sticking to a strict regiment can experience failure. One of the most common causes for failure in any weight management program is setting dietary goals that don't encourage lifestyle changes.

Making temporary changes in eating habits may facilitate weight loss, but the changes won't be long lasting. However, when you reach your goals and go off the weight loss program, or "fad diet," the tendency is to return to old eating habits and gain the weight back (and possibly more). To have permanent weight loss, a person must make permanent changes in food choices, eating habits and physical activity.

"You need to make positive lifestyle changes," Ms. Gonzales said. "You need to change unwanted behaviors and develop healthy eating habits. It's all about being healthy — not just for one month or three months or even a year, but for the rest of your life."

Another common reason for diet failure is deprivation. Drastically restricting calories can slow metabolism and hinder the weight loss process. Dieters who deprive themselves of calories become highly efficient at conserving calories and storing them as fat. Also, diets that severely restrict caloric intake facilitate loss of lean body weight as opposed to fat weight, and lean body mass is important in burning fat.

Depriving yourself of food can also lead to binge eating. It can lead to depriving yourself of social events. Giving up eating meals out or eating with friends because you don't want to eat something off your diet can lead to overeating to compensate for "missing out."

Despite the minor setbacks, I am still as motivated as ever to continue to lose weight. Meeting with Ms. Gonzales for just 30 minutes provided a major boost in my self confidence and my desire to succeed. I know the staff at the HAWC really cares about me and is there to help me succeed. And I know I will reach my goals with their help and encouragement. I just have to work harder and be cautious of backsliding — which is not an option.

#### HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

536-4292

The **Discovery** is online.

Go to <http://www.brooks.af.mil/HSW/PA/discovery>



# AFMC civilians authorized duty time for fitness and wellness



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

**Diane Gonzales, director of the Civilian Health Population Service, takes the blood pressure of Willie Mastin, fitness center specialist. The existing AFMC health initiative has been expanded to include wellness in addition to physical fitness.**

**By Kathleen A.K. Lopez**  
*Air Force Materiel Command PA*

A change to an existing health initiative now enables Air Force full- and part-time civilian employees within Air Force Materiel Command voluntary participation in both physical fitness and wellness programs.

AFMC, along with the American Federation of Government Employees Council 214, initially mandated terms and conditions on physical fitness in a February 2005 memorandum of agreement. It allowed AFMC's appropriated-fund, full-time civilian employees' voluntary participation in physical fitness activities

for up to three hours per week during official duty hours. The MOA was modified in October to include pro-rated involvement for part-time AFMC civilian employees.

The newly revised MOA enables the authorized three hours to be used for either fitness or wellness activities, or a combination of both.

According to Diana Gonzales, director of the Civilian Health Population Service, 375 civilians at Brooks are using the time allotment for physical fitness, but she hopes more will take advantage of the policy modifications. "I would like to see more civilians participate in this generous

program. People need to use the allotted time for wellness education, health assessments and screenings and other (Health and Wellness Center's) services," Ms. Gonzalez said.

Scott Blanch, president, American Federation of Government Employees Council 214, said fitness and wellness go hand-in-hand. "We've (AFMC and AFGE Council 214 leadership) worked hard this past year to incorporate that concept into practical application," he said.

"Some people have fitness regimes that can't necessarily be incorporated during their duty day," Mr. Blanch said. "At the same time, there are so many wellness resources available on AFMC bases that to deny folks access to them because they are not 'fitness-related' seemed a contradiction to the end-goal, which is total-body fitness and wellness."

Changing the command's policy on Civilian Physical Fitness and Wellness Activities MOA to include both full- and part-time appropriated-fund Air Force civilians seemed a logical

step, as well.

"Total-body fitness and wellness is a team goal for AFMC," said John Day, chief, AFMC Force Sustainment. "Part-time employees are just as important to the AFMC mission as our full-time employees."

Defined, fitness activities include cardiovascular and aerobic activities, as well as muscular strengthening, along with flexibility and body conditioning. Wellness program activities include AFMC Civilian Health Promotion Services. All AFMC bases have CHPS offices. Some of their services include annual physical health assessments, health education classes for nutrition, exercise, stress and weight management, as well as tobacco cessation classes.

To participate in physical fitness programs, employees first need to contact their servicing employee relations specialists at their base civilian personnel offices, said Jane Hostler, a human resources specialist at AFMC headquarters.

"They need to obtain a form entitled, 'Request for Approval of Excused Absence for Physical Fitness Activities,'" she said. "Employees need to have the form signed by their physician, which certifies the employee is fit and able to partake in a physical fitness program." The employee then submits the request form to his or her first-level supervisor.

Civilian Airmen who choose to exercise during duty hours must follow a few guidelines. Only one block of time per day is authorized. That time is to encompass all aspects of working out - from traveling to and from the exercise location, changing clothes, showering and returning to work. However, physical fitness blocks may be combined with authorized breaks or regularly-scheduled lunch times. People may not bank unused weekly hours for future use.

While up to three hours may be used weekly for physical fitness activities, both parties recommend no more than 90 minutes maximum be used per session.

To participate in wellness programs, civilian Airmen are not required to submit a request form.

Some program participants in the fitness and wellness program may be required to maintain a diary which tracks activities, goals and progress toward those goals. Excused absences for participants are noted on their bi-weekly timesheets.

Program guidance requires that on-base facilities be used for fitness and wellness activities during duty time unless the employee's normal duty station is not on the base proper. In such cases, supervisors may make alternate arrangements. Supervisors are responsible for ensuring the program is neither compromised nor abused.



# A LOOK AT BROOKS

How do you plan  
to celebrate  
Easter Sunday?



**Katherine Taylor**  
**USAFSAM**

My old tradition, we will hide Easter eggs in the back-yard and my grandchildren will come over and have breakfast and then hunt for the eggs.



**Capt. Connie LoBrutto**  
**USAFSAM**

This is the first year my son is old enough to participate, so his grandma is flying in from Florida.



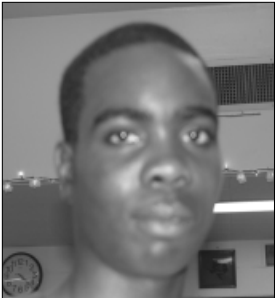
**Tammy Fiesenhahn**  
**Alamo Travel Group**

Spending it with my family and my daughter, going to church and then doing an Easter egg hunt at my aunt's.



**Tech. Sgt.**  
**Warren Bengé**  
**AFRL**

Taking my kids Easter egg hunting and going to church.



**Airman Tim Wright**  
**59th MDS**

I am going back home to Fort Worth and celebrate with my family.





## BROOKS BRIEFS



### Brooks Health Fair

The Health and Wellness Center, Civilian Health Program Services and the Brooks Fitness Center are joining forces to sponsor a “Spring into Health” health fair. More than 23 participants have signed up to provide health and wellness education at the fair, which takes place April 19 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the fitness center.

### Annual Easter Egg hunt

Get ready to hear the thumpy thump of the Easter Bunny as he makes his appearance at the Annual Easter Egg Hunt April 15. The hunt begins 2 p.m. sharp on the playground adjacent to the Youth Program Center.

Photos can be taken with the Easter Bunny for \$6. Concessions will be sold at the event. Stop by the center and pick-up your Easter coloring contest sheet. Completed sheets should be returned to the center by April 13.

### Jewish Holocaust Remembrance

Team Brooks presents “Legacies of Justice,” a symposium in recognition of 2006 Jewish Holocaust Remembrance Day. The symposium is Tuesday at the U.S. School of Aerospace Medicine large auditorium from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The symposium will feature significant historical research as well as personal experience scenarios presented by the committee. Guest speaker Maxine Cohen, director of the Holocaust Memorial of San Antonio, will offer her own personal and professional insight as well as answer audience questions. This event promises to be a personal, enlightening, thought provoking, and moving experience. A display may also be viewed at the Brooks Library beginning Monday.

### After School Program

The Youth Program Center’s After School Program is conducted Monday through Friday from 3 to 5 p.m. Drop-in spaces are available. Homework assistance, computer time, outdoor play, cooking activities and arts and

crafts are offered to children. Fees are based on total household income. Call the Youth Programs Center at 536-2515 for more information or to register.

### Catfish buffet

April 14 is the last chance to enjoy the Brooks Club’s Catfish Buffet with all the trimmings. Bring the entire family to the Brooks Club from 4 to 6 pm. It is free to current club members and \$5 for non-members.

### Educational awards available

The Brooks Heritage Foundation is presenting three educational awards to eligible applicants — a \$1,000 award to a graduating high school senior and two \$250 awards to student aides employed at Brooks. Applications are available in the foundation’s office in the museum annex. Email bhf@satx.rr.com for more information. The application deadline is May 1.

### Summer Day Camp

Active duty members only can register through April 21 for Summer Day Camp. All others can register starting April 24 including military who have not yet registered. Camp starts May 26 and is held Monday through Friday from 6:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fees are determined by total household income. Breakfast, lunch and a snack are included in the fee. Field trips, computer time, outdoor play, arts and crafts, cooking activities and leisure time make up the camp day. For more information, contact the Youth Programs Center at 536-2515.

### Termination of towel service

Effective May 1, towel service at the Fitness Center will be discontinued due to budget restraints.

### Cup-A-Joe Coffee House

The newly-opened Cup-A-Joe Coffee House is open weekdays from 6 a.m. to 1p.m.

and 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 to 11 a.m. The shop proudly brews Starbucks coffee. Try a cappuccino, white chocolate mocha, espresso, latte, café Americano or numerous other hot beverages. Pick up a beverage card and have it stamped each time you make a purchase. Buy nine beverages and get the 10th free.

### Treasure Island Casino Cruise

Brooks’ Outdoor Recreation is sponsoring a one-day cruise aboard the Treasure Island Casino in Port Aransas, Texas. A smoke-free commercial bus will depart Sidney’s parking lot at 7 a.m. May 20, with the cruise running from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost for trip is \$25 per person, and included admission aboard the cruise ship, dining in the international buffet, complimentary beverages while gaming and live entertainment. Guests must be at least 21 years of age to book passage, and must have proper identification. Contact Outdoor Rec at 536-2881 to sign up.

### Brooks TOP 3

Brooks TOP 3 meets the third Wednesday of every month at 3 p.m. in the Brooks Club. The TOP 3 is open to all members grade E7 through E9 and all master sergeant selects.

### Air Force Sergeant’s Association

The Air Force Sergeant’s Association meets the second Tuesday every month at 3 p.m. at Sidney’s. AFSA membership is open to all Air Force enlisted members.

### Game Night

Brooks personnel are invited to

participate in the first-ever Game Night. The event is Friday from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Brooks Club. Call 536-3872 for more details.

### Student Mentoring Program

The Student Mentoring Program for 2005-06 school year is on-going. Brooks City-Base supports the schools and organizations in the surrounding area by providing mentors for students. Brooks personnel are invited to volunteer. Questions regarding the program can be directed to Rita Lassiter, Brooks City-Base mentor program coordinator, at 536-6379.

### Pneumococcal vaccine

If you are over the age of 65 or have a chronic medical condition, and have not had the Pneumococcal vaccination in the past five years, please ask your doctor if you are eligible for this vaccine. More people suffer from complications of Pneumococcal pneumonia than any other vaccine-preventable disease. The Pneumococcal vaccination has been proven to substantially reduce severe pneumococcal pneumonia and other pneumococcal infections. For those eligible, it is fully covered under healthcare benefits.

### Brooks Chapel — Holy Week schedule



For more info,  
call 536-3824

#### Catholic

April 13 – Holy Thursday Service – 4:30 p.m.  
April 14 – Good Friday Service – 11:30 a.m.  
April 16 – Easter Sunday Mass – 9 a.m.

#### Protestant

April 16 – Sunrise service followed by breakfast – 7:30 a.m.  
April 16 – Easter Sunday Traditional Service – 10:30 a.m.  
April 16 – Easter Sunday Contemporary Service – 5 p.m.

#### Ecumenical

April 14 – Showing of “The Passion of the Christ” - 6 p.m.



# Red-hatted ladies stay fit at Brooks

**By Rudy Purificato**  
*311th Human Systems Wing*

Wearing their distinctive red hats and purple attire, a group of health conscious women made the Brooks fitness center their latest stop March 31 in their progressive plan to stay fit while touring local military installations.

Called the Red Hatted Road Runners of San Antonio, this over-50 group visited Brooks City-Base for the first time to participate in a fitness center-sponsored aerobics class.

“We encourage fitness for women over 50. In order to be active, we have to be fit. We want to stay healthy so we can have fun longer,” said June Chapko, the group’s “Queen Mum.”

Recently these ladies went horseback riding at Fort Sam Houston where three of them had worked until their retirement from federal civil service.

Formed about a year ago, this group is one of several hundred chapters worldwide that have flourished through the inspiration of its founder Sue Ellen Cooper. Ms. Cooper created the Red Hatted Society in the 1990s in Minnesota to motivate women over 50 to remain physically and socially active as they ease into their retirement years.

“It (organization) was formed based on the poem “Warning” published in a book of poems by Jenny Joseph,” Ms. Chapko explained. The poem embraces the spirit of women who are care-free and content with living life

on their own terms. Ms. Chapko recited part of it: “When I am an old woman, I shall wear purple with a red hat that doesn’t match.”

“We do something active once a month, something physical,” Ms. Chapko said. Mary Conatzer, a group member whose husband Roy is the Brooks fitness center director, suggested the aerobics class as their March “extra event.”

“We’re excited about life and are active. There are no rules, except members over 50 must wear a red hat and purple outfit. Women under 50 who are members wear pink hats and lavender clothing,” Ms. Chapko said.

Women interested in joining this group can contact Ms. Chapko at 359-8493.



*Photo by Rudy Purificato*  
**Tasha Myrick, Brooks Fitness Center aerobics instructor, hands out expandable exercise rings to the “Red Hatted Road Runners,” a group of over-50 women visiting Brooks for a workout.**



**ERIC STEPHENS**  
311th Human Systems  
Wing director

# ACTION LINE

## 536-2222

The **DIRECTOR'S ACTION LINE** is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the **DIRECTOR'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222**.

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

**The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:**

Brooks City-Base Security.....	536-2851	Military Personnel.....	536-1845
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571	Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
311th Mission Support Group—		Military Pay.....	536-5778
Logistics Division.....	536-3541	Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
Safety.....	536-2111	Inspector General (FWA).....	536-2358
BDA Housing Community Maintenance.....	533-5900	Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
BDA Housing Community Office.....	533-5905	EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
311th Services Division.....	536-2545	Brooks City-Base AF Project Office.....	536-3655
59th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715	Brooks Development Authority.....	536-5366

## FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

### COLLEGE FINANCIAL PLANNING WITH 529 PLAN

**April 14 — 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537**

Section 529 provides for a qualified tuition program that offers special benefits for those who wish to provide funds for a child's college education. One of the two types of plans under this program is the Prepaid Education Services Account. This account purchases tuition credits or certificates at today's current tuition rates for use in the future and can be state sponsored or sponsored by a private institution. The other type of plan is the Education Savings Account where contributions are established for meeting higher education expenses and is only state sponsored. Come to class and learn all the details to start funding your child's education now.

### GIVE PARENTS A BREAK

**April 14 — 5 - 9 p.m., Bldg. 537**

The Air Force Aid Society offer eligible parents a few hours break from the stressors of parenting. To be eligible for the program, families must be referred by a commander, first sergeant or chaplain, or Family Support Center, Family Advocacy, Child Development Center or Youth Center personnel. Contact the Youth Center at 536-2515 to make reservation.

### EFFECTIVE RESUMES

**April 26 — 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Bldg. 537**

This is a "lunch and learn program" — bring your lunch. Find out how to create the resume that is best for you and how to use it to get the interview. Call the Family Support Center for more information or to sign up.

### SPONSOR TRAINING

**Mondays — 1 - 1:30 p.m., Bldg. 537**

Sponsor training is mandatory of all first-time sponsors and those who have not sponsored within the past year. However, others are more than welcome to attend. Learn about tools and resources available for sponsors.

### SPACE CAMP SCHOLARSHIP

The Military Child Education Coalition is taking applications or the 2006 Bernard Curtis Brown II

Memorial Scholarship. Space Camp is a five-day program that shows youngsters firsthand what it takes to be an astronaut. To be eligible, applicants must be a child of an active duty military parent or activated guard or reservist, be enrolled in grades six through nine, submit hand-written essay stating why he or she should be selected, submit two letters of recommendation with contact information and complete and submit the application by deadline. For more information, visit website at [www.MilitaryChild.org](http://www.MilitaryChild.org).

### EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This program is a free benefit provided to civilians and their spouses and dependent children. Services can be accessed by calling 1-800-222-0364. The EAP offers short term counseling/problem resolution either by telephone or via face to face counseling with a therapist in private practice in the San Antonio area, referrals to community resources, legal and financial services, a website resources offered at [www.FOH4you.com](http://www.FOH4you.com), consultations, Critical Incident Stress Management services, and health and wellness presentations. Confidentiality is the cornerstone of the EAP. Counselors are ethically and legally bound by law to protect client information (except in cases where one is threatening to harm themselves or someone else).

### AIR FORCE ONESOURCE

The Air Force Onesource program, provided in partnership with Family Support Centers and other agencies, is designed to help active duty members and their family members cope with life's little and not so little issues, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Master's level consultants are available to speak with you, ALL calls will be answered live. The website, [www.airforceonesource.com](http://www.airforceonesource.com), provides information on numerous items of interest and utilizes a key word search engine. One can access informative articles, helpful tools, and audio tips on hundreds of topics. The toll free number is 1-800-707-5784.

**To register for a class,  
call 536-2444**



# EMEDS tests warehoused hospitals, other war readiness materials

*Continued from page 1*

What the EMEDS cadre here hadn't done until last year was set up and test transportable hospital equipment overseas in support of a specific MAJCOM request. "The purpose for going (there) was to make sure they (warehoused hospitals) were operable and structurally protected against chemical/biological weapons," said Captain Keifer.

To do this, EMEDS specialists have so far deployed three times to South Korea to check prep-positioned equipment there.



**The Brooks EMEDS team supervised the testing of transportable hospitals. The hospitals are pulled out of warehouses during wars and other times of need.**

In their most recent trip to Kunsan AB March 20-24, Captain Keifer headed an EMEDS team that included Staff Sergeant Candice Boykin, a logistics technician; Staff Sgt. Will Myers, a biomedical equipment repair technician; Staff Sgt. Joe Guerrero, a bioenvironmental engineering technician; and Tech.Sgt. Chris Valadez, who specializes in information technology.

The team supervised the assembly of an EMEDS facility in about a day and a half. They were supported by the 177th New Jersey Air National Guard, which

provided the majority of the labor needed to erect a 5,760-square-foot hospital composed of nine interconnected tents.

Meanwhile, Capt. Keifer's team checked for structural leaks and damaged or malfunctioning equipment. "We operated the equipment to see if it worked and certified that it was operational," said Captain

Keifer, referring to such things as heart monitors, ventilators and generators.

The missions there, with two more planned for later this year and early 2007, were important to PACAF and the Air Force medical community. "War readiness materiel is never used during (military) exercises. It's kept for the real thing," said Captain Keifer.

He credited PACAF for their initiative in contacting the subject matters experts at Brooks to help them ensure their equipment is ready when needed. "PACAF is on target with all of their (EMEDS) equipment currently operational. My hat's off to them," the captain said.

Once all the pre-positioned equipment



*Courtesy photos*  
**EMEDS team members from the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine assist Airmen from the 177th New Jersey Air National Guard assembly an Alaskan shelter at Kunsan AB, South Korea. This shelter, linked to eight others, forms the EMEDS transportable hospital. The hospital assembly tested the operability of this war readiness materiel that has been warehoused by Pacific Air Force Command.**

is evaluated, future plans are to sustain it. "As new requirements come out, pre-positioned materiel will be replaced with the newest equipment through logistics channels," Captain Keifer said.





# Air Force monitors avian flu using more sentinel sites

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Air Force virologists at Brooks City-Base are testing influenza samples taken from an increasing number of worldwide sentinel surveillance sites that supports the Global Emerging Infections System's initiative to more effectively monitor for a potential avian flu outbreak.

Since June 2005, the U.S. tri-service laboratory-based GEIS system has enhanced its influenza surveillance capabilities through additions to its network of early warning stations called sentinel sites.

"We've added more sentinel sites for monitoring avian flu. Last year there were 29 sites. Now there are 42," said Linda Canas, Chief of Diagnostic Virology for the Air Force Institute for Operational Health.

Samples taken from these sites are analyzed here by AFIOH's Epidemiological Surveillance Division. GEIS was established in 1997, the same year



Photo by Rudy Purificato

**Linda Canas, chief of diagnostic virology for the Air Force Institute for Operational Health, points to a new sentinel surveillance site for testing and monitoring avian flu.**

that Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) first appeared in Hong Kong poultry.

"So far, we've seen no avian flu," Ms. Canas said about the sentinel sites. She said new sentinel sites have been established in places of high human activity as transit points, such as overseas military deployment areas primarily in the Middle East.

"GEIS is working to add even more sentinel sites," she said about potential locations in Africa. As GEIS executive agent, the Air Force shares information with the World Health Organization, foreign health ministries and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in a collaborative effort to mitigate potential disease outbreaks. Senti-

nel site selection is partly based on supportable infrastructure, such as a military base where public health officers are available to manage the program.

"There are two types of sentinel sites, military and civilian," Ms. Canas said. Military sentinel sites provide samples collected primarily from active duty personnel and their dependents. "We ask sites to collect samples from 6-10 people per week," Ms. Canas said.

Besides analyzing sentinel samples, AFIOH virologists receive samples from military clinical labs taken from patients with respiratory illnesses. Physicians determine sample selection based on flu case criteria: a fever of at least 100.5 degrees Fahrenheit, a persistent cough and sore throat.

"The flu season used to be from October to March. It's been expanded year-round," Ms. Canas said, crediting the growing concern for avian flu.

Believed spread by migratory birds, avian flu has caused 105

reported human deaths worldwide. All of these cases involved close human contact with infected domesticated fowl, Ms. Canas said.

"It has not yet made the leap from birds to efficient human-to-human transmission," she said about a strain that hasn't mutated.

She said H5N1 has not yet demonstrated efficient enough microbiological mechanisms needed for bird-to-human transmission. Normally, flu in birds is low-pathogenic, she said, which means it doesn't usually kill them.

"This strain has made some kind of change and is killing chickens," Ms. Canas noted. She said the virus load is very high in infected chickens. So much so, that it overwhelmed the immune systems of 18 people in China who were initially infected by it. Six of that group died.

"We don't know what to expect, but we need to be prepared for it," says Ms. Canas. She suggested that should the virus mutate, it could potentially be less virulent and harmful to people.



# AFMC civilian orientation course gains interest from other commands

By Capt. Paul Baldwin  
*Air Force Materiel Command Public Affairs*

Representatives from three commands plan to meet with Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command professional development staff in May to discuss adapting the AFMC Orientation Course for their commands.

Leadership from the three commands, Air Mobility Command, Air Education and Training Command and Air Force Space Command, has expressed interest in developing a similar course for their civilian work forces.

While the course is significant to AFMC because its work force is nearly 70 percent civilian, other commands recognize the benefits of giving their civilians the same opportunity through a similar course. The orientation course, which has five sections, covers basic Air Force heritage, customs and courtesies.

“The purpose of the meeting is to develop a strategy and implementation plan to share and transfer the contents of the orientation course so that they can deliver the course to their employees,” said Sherre Collier, chief of Leadership Development in the AFMC headquarters Personnel Directorate, which spearheaded the course’s development.

“We will also be developing a draft of a proposed Air Force policy for expansion Air Force-wide upon completion of the test to transfer the program to these three commands,” Ms. Collier said.

The course takes about eight hours to complete. Four of the five sections can be accomplished at a computer. A section about Air Force core values is taught in a classroom and is being

added to many civilian orientation programs, AFMC officials said. Together, the five modules make up part one of the course, or Spiral 1. The modules are Air Force Heritage and Today, AFMC Heritage and Today, Air Force Customs and Courtesies, Air Force

Core Values and Air Force Core Competencies.

The course was introduced to AFMC civilians March 3. The idea for the course came from an emphasis by AFMC leadership on education and training for the civilian work force. Air Force civilians were not receiving any Air Force background or history once they were hired, officials said.

Testing and delivery of Spiral 2 is scheduled for October 2006. Spiral 2 consists of an additional three modules: Force Development, Workforce Health, Safety and Security, and Personnel Administration.

**The purpose...is to develop a strategy and implementation plan to share and transfer the contents of the orientation course...**

**Sherre Collier**  
Chief of Leadership Development, AFMC



# DoD selects five AFMC bases for health and safety initiative

By John Scaggs

Air Force Materiel Command PA

The Air Force isn't waiting for the Memorial Day weekend start of the "101 Critical Days of Summer" to emphasize health and safety to its work force.

Nine Air Force bases are scheduled to participate in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Voluntary Protection Program this year. Five of the nine bases belong to Air Force Materiel Command.

VPP is a concept that promotes effective worksite-based safety and health through a cultural change within the work force. It is based on cooperative relationships between management, labor and OSHA to develop and promote a comprehensive safety and occupational health management system. VPP compliments the Air Force Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Management System.

The Defense Safety Oversight Council selected VPP for use within the Department of Defense after data showed a re-

duction in mishap rates and worker compensation costs in civilian and federal organizations that comply with VPP. The Air Force Safety Center at Kirtland AFB, N.M., is responsible for coordinating VPP implementation at all Air Force bases.

Approval into VPP is OSHA's official recognition of the outstanding efforts of employers and employees who have achieved exemplary occupational safety and health. OSHA approves qualified sites to one of three programs: Star (the DoD target is it signifies an exemplary health and safety program); Merit; and Star Demonstration (recognition for worksites that address unique safety and health issues).

Concurrent Technologies Corp., or CTC, was contracted to visit bases and evaluate health and safety programs. Representatives will conduct a one-day engagement visit with senior leadership. The contractor will return 30 days later and remain on base for one week to assess existing health and safety measures. CTC representatives will compare those measures with

VPP health and safety requirements and identify gaps.

CTC representatives will visited Wright-Patterson AFB April 5. They partnered with Headquarters AFMC safety officials to brief Headquarters AFMC senior leaders as well as commanders, safety and medical representatives from AFMC bases via a video teleconference. The briefing outlined the plan for implementing VPP throughout the Air Force as well as AFMC, the Air Force's lead major command for VPP.

Headquarters AFMC will be available to aid bases throughout the VPP process.

"Our safety office will form a working group to help AFMC bases implement VPP and to help bases close existing gaps following CTC assessments," explained Charles Pyron, ground safety manager at Headquarters AFMC. "Each base's safety office will facilitate the program while the center commander will assume responsibility for the program."

Ultimately, VPP is compliance driven. To achieve a VPP cat-

egory of recognition, a decline in illness and injury has to occur.

"We have Air Force Instructions that tell us how to do our job and do it safely," said Lt. Gen. Terry Gabreski, AFMC vice commander. "The VPP initiative will help AFMC take its health and safety program up a notch."

In turn, that should equate to a decline in lost days and compensation costs. In fiscal 2005, AFMC had 11,397 lost days which equated to about \$59.3 million in total compensation costs.

"We've got to do everything possible to preserve our most important resource — people," General Gabreski said. "As we become more familiar with VPP, it will help stimulate the work

force to institute new programs and perfect existing programs for providing safe and healthy working conditions. Ultimately, we want co-workers telling their colleagues 'hey, put your earplugs in' or 'wear your safety goggles'."

The first Air Force base scheduled for assessment by CTC is Tinker AFB, Okla., in late April.

"CTC will then visit and assess Robins AFB (Ga.), Hill AFB (Utah), Wright-Patterson AFB and Hanscom AFB (Mass.)," said Mr. Pyron. "So our five bases will know what their health and safety gaps are by the end of September. Through active involvement from leadership and the work force, we'll start to close the gaps."

**We've got to do everything possible to preserve our most important resource — people.**

**Gen. Terry Gabreski**  
Vice Commander, AFMC





# Brooks scientist earns top DoD award

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

Brooks City-Base virologist Linda Canas was recognized nationally March 21 in Washington, D.C. for her career-long scientific contributions that have helped safeguard public health.

She was honored, along with 120 other federal women, as a Department of Defense Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Role Model.

The ceremony that honored Ms. Canas and her colleagues was held at the National Women's Memorial in Arlington Cemetery. The event was part of the Defense Department's Women's History Month forum and observance that featured the 2006 theme: "Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams."

"I am truly delighted and honored by the recognition and thankful that Lt. Col. Ronald Rippetoe, the new commander of the Epidemi-

ology Lab, nominated me," said Ms. Canas, Chief of Diagnostic Virology for the Air Force Institute for Operational Health.

The award is the highest she has received in her career, a DoD-level honor that is annually presented by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. She was one of only seven Air Force women to receive the award.

Born in Ogden, Utah, to Kenneth and Florence Collier, Ms. Canas earned a microbiology degree from the University of Maryland before embarking on an Air Force civil service career in 1986.

She was initially hired at Lackland Air Force Base's Wilford Hall Medical Center by renowned microbiologist Ferne McCleskey who helped pioneer Air Force gene probe technology at Brooks. "She's the one who also recommended I be hired at Brooks in 1988," said Ms. Canas about the late Mrs. McCleskey, who is best known for helping develop "DNA fingerprinting" of harmful microorganisms.

Since her arrival here, Ms. Canas has worked with a 10-member virology section team that has collaborated with the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in developing North American flu vaccines.

She and her team have also worked to safeguard the health of Air Force and Navy personnel through sexually transmitted disease screenings. "We average 15,000 tests for STDs a month and annually test 4,500 flu surveillance samples," she said.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

**Brooks virologist Linda Canas was honored March 21 with a Department of Defense-level award for her career-long contributions to Air Force Public health.**

# Brooks chess tourney a 'checkmate'

By Elizabeth Castillo  
Discovery writer

In a battle of knowledge and skill, some of Brooks' finest chess players went head-to-head in an effort to receive top honors in the Air Force Chess Program.

Sixteen participants gathered at the Youth Center on March 22 including five children, nine pipeline students, one permanent party member and one civilian. The purpose of the Air Force Chess Program, as mentioned on their website, is to provide additional opportunities for families, youth and other community members to participate in a recreational and educational activity.

"I couldn't have been happier with the turnout," said Feletia McLaurin Youth Programs Director. "We had 16 participants on time and ready to play."

In the youth portion of the competition, first place went to Kellen Sanders, second place to DeWayne Parks and third place to Kenji Parks. Eddie Thurman was the only civilian player but took top honors as the overall winner of this



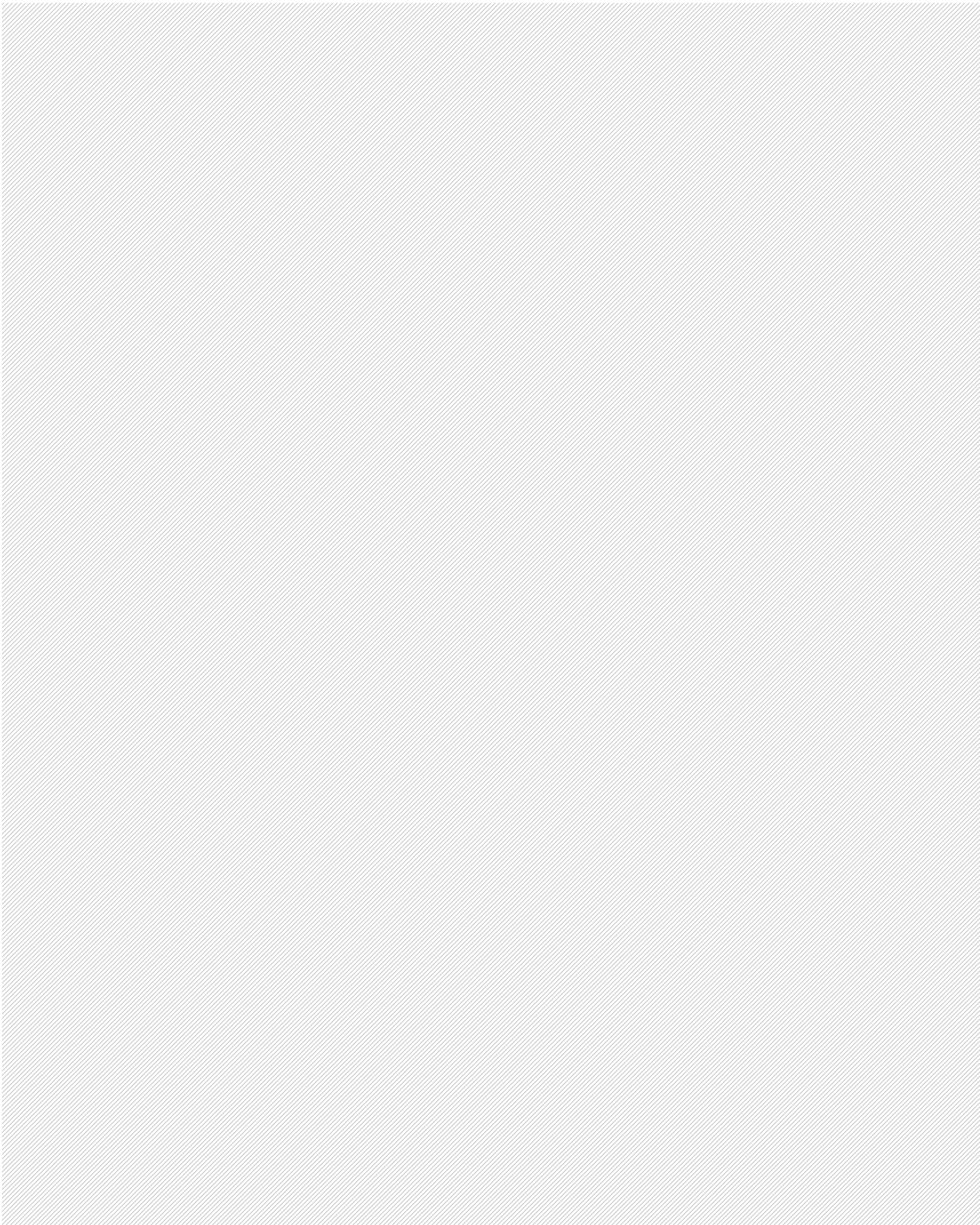
Photo by Tech. Sgt. Keith Brown

**Eddie Thurman (left) battles Airman Basic Justin Mendes at a recent chess tournament hosted by the Youth Center. Mr. Thurman was the overall winner, while Airman Mendes captured first among active duty participants.**

year's competition.

Active duty top honors went to Airman Basic Justin Mendes who received first place, Staff Sgt. Jeramy Thomas received second place and Airman Alton Mercy II received third.

The top winner in the active duty category with a U.S. chess Federation rating will go on to compete at the Air Force level competition at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. From there, the Air Force will select a six-person Air Force chess team to participate in the interservice and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization chess tournaments. Sergeant Thomas will go on to represent Brooks at the Air Force tournament scheduled for May.







JACKSON

**FULL NAME:***William Garrison Jackson***NICKNAME:***Billy***DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:***Mathematical statistician,  
Air Force Health Study,  
Air Force Research Laboratory***IN SIMPLE TERMS,  
WHAT DO YOU DO?:***I analyze health data for 20 year  
epidemiologic study of Air Force  
veterans who sprayed and handled  
herbicides in Vietnam plus a group of  
controls who were not involved with  
the herbicides***BIRTHDAY:***Aug. 12, 1940***HOMETOWN:***Austin, Texas***PERSONAL MOTTO:***"Reality is that which, when you don't  
believe in it, doesn't go away."***INSPIRATIONS:***Anyone who demonstrates personal  
courage or the determination to do  
what's right regardless of the  
consequences***I JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE  
BECAUSE:***It kept me closer to Austin than other  
job offers***HOBBIES:***Dancing (Texas two-step, East or  
West Coast swing, etc.)***FIVE-YEAR GOAL:***See how far up Long's Peak in Rocky  
Mountain National Park I can get  
before getting too tired, too scared,  
too cold or stop having fun.***ULTIMATE GOAL:***Help my five grandchildren obtain an  
education.***MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:***Whatever influence (probably less  
than I imagine) I had on my three  
daughters to get their college  
degrees.***IF I WON THE LOTTERY, I'D:***Keep it as secret as possible.*

# Decades of dedication

**By Elizabeth Castillo***Discovery writer*

As with most military bases, Brooks has seen many changes over the past 40 years. Although the faces have changed as countless base employees have come and gone, the biggest change was the conversion from an Air Force Base to a City-Base. Throughout the base's evolution, one worker has weathered the changes and remained loyal to the base that virtually launched his career.

March 6 marked the 40-year anniversary for Billy Jackson, and the mathematical statistician expresses enthusiasm and passion for his job as though it were his first day.

Mr. Jackson grew up in Austin and after graduating from high school, he was given an ultimatum from his parents.

"My parents said 'we'll pay for your education at (the University of Texas at Austin) here at home, or you can pay for yourself and go somewhere else,'" Mr. Jackson said. "So, I went to UT-Austin."

After graduating from UT in 1966 with a bachelor's degree in mathematics, Mr. Jackson took a job with the Army at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. After working at White Sands for about a year, a friend told him there were some people from San Antonio looking to recruit mathematicians.

"I was eager to get back to central Texas so I called them and got hired here at Brooks," Mr. Jackson said.

He was originally hired into what was then called the Biometrics Division which was a part of the U.S. School of Aerospace Medicine.

"When I showed up here, I really did not know much of anything," he said. "But in those days they had a lot of educational programs, and they immediately started me on courses at St. Mary's University."

From there, Mr. Jackson went on to Texas A&M for a year of long-term studies where he earned his master's degree in statistics. "They spent plenty of time training us and we had really good mentors and bosses," Mr. Jackson said.

The future for Mr. Jackson at Brooks was going to be long and inspiring as he was able to experience the many changes the base has seen over the 39 years. Mostly, he remembers the people who helped inspire and shape his career and the legacy they left behind.

"The division chief when I started working here at Brooks was Dr. Brian

*Photos by Tech. Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.*

Danford," said Mr.

Jackson. "He put together a really strong group of statisticians, programmers and computer people."

Shortly after Mr. Jackson arrived at Brooks, Dr. Danford passed away and Dr. Harry Hughes presided as division chief for the next 20 years, with Dr. Phelps Crump as branch chief of the Data Analysis Branch.

"All of these guys really supported the educational process," Mr. Jackson said. "Us 'whippersnappers' came in and they took the time to teach us what we needed to know."

After about 20 years, there was a big reorganization and Mr. Jackson's division was split up among the other divisions of the school. For the next 10 years he worked in the clinical sciences division. From there, he was transferred over to the Air Force Health Study by Col. Joe Burton and Dr. Joel Michalek, where he has been since — for roughly 10 years.

His career has taken him from tracking missiles to being part of a 20-year health study of the Air Force personnel who sprayed herbicides during the Vietnam War. The study will end in September at which point Mr. Jackson plans to retire.

"All of the places that I have worked; the Biometrics Division, Clinical Sciences Division and over here, the thing that has always impressed me the most is that people have insisted on integrity and doing things right," said Mr. Jackson. "All of the people I have ever worked for have always said no matter what happens, do things right and whatever the consequences are, that's what they will be."

As the years have passed, one of the most significant changes Mr. Jackson has

noticed is that of funds.

"The biggest change is that money is a lot less available, and there is a lot more competition for dollars," he said.

Much like his hobby, as the years have passed and the times have changed, Mr. Jackson has taken it all in stride.

For roughly three years he has been a dance student at Absolute Dance Studio where he learned how to do the Texas two-step and East and West Coast swing in order to have fun while staying in shape through low impact exercise.

"I had never been much of a dancer and I usually tried to avoid it," he said. "An opportunity came up to take some dance lessons so I started doing that and it turned out to be a lot of fun. It's not easy but it is fun."

Besides being a dancer and a mathematician, Mr. Jackson is also a father of three daughters ranging in age from 25-35 years old and a grandfather to five grandchildren.

After retiring, Mr. Jackson plans on getting more sleep and exercise. He would also like to travel to some of the United States' national parks including Yosemite and Yellowstone. "People say you have to have something to do. If I ever feel like I need something to do, I will do some volunteer work," he said. "But not 40 hours a week!"

As the road of life has taken Mr. Jackson on many journeys, the people that paved the way have left a lasting impression on his life. They were also the reason for his long career and dedication as a civil service employee.

"I have always worked with people that I felt were honest and were really trying to do their job right," he said. "If the people were not professional, I don't think I would have stayed around."





## FEATURE

# T-Bird passion drives hobby of former Brooks scientist's hobby

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

"A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush" may be how Dr. Carroll Brown and fellow hobbyists view their passion for collecting vintage Ford Thunderbirds. Finding and acquiring classic T-Birds fuels their desire to fulfill a never-ending interest in what they consider to be the coolest looking cars ever made.

When the Ford Motor Company premiered its first T-Birds in 1955, they not only revolutionized the sports car industry in America, but also created a loyal following who characterize themselves as 'thunderstruck.'

"When the 1955 T-Bird came out, I wanted one. I was a senior in high school," said Dr. Brown, who retired from Brooks in 2004 after a 41-year civil service career as a research psychologist.

The 65-year-old Plainville, Texas, native has since acquired an impressive and comprehensive collection of vintage T-Birds. "I have every model from 1957-1969," he said, noting that the collection encompasses convertibles and hard tops in all body styles.

He admits not being driven to search for new acquisitions. "Most of the time the cars find me. I rarely go looking for cars," he said. When he does, there's a specific model in mind. T-Bird model rarity, nowadays, gets Dr. Brown's full attention.

Such was the case when he was driving along Somerset Road in San Antonio. The 'bird in the hand' saying didn't immediately pop into his head, but Dr. Brown knew when he saw the rare 1963 Sports Roadster it was a bargain, no



Photos by Rudy Purificato

**Retired Brooks scientist Dr. Carroll Brown inspects a 1957 T-Bird, a classic car similar to the one he has in his collection. Dr. Brown owns every model from 1957 to 1969, a collection that encompasses convertibles and hard tops in all body styles.**

matter the condition. "I remember seeing one that had been thrown onto a roof at a wrecking yard," he says. He later bought it, one of two he now owns. He once owned seven of these rare cars, 25 of which are believed to exist. Such cars are priceless to collectors.

When Dr. Brown first got started collecting T-Birds, price was certainly no object despite the fact that he had very limited resources. "I bought a new 1961 T-Bird for \$5,600. I had about \$1.61 (left) to eat on," he admits, referring to his college days when classy transportation took precedence over starvation.

So pleased was he with his purchase that in 1963 he decided to increase his fleet to two T-birds, much to the chagrin of his parents. "I always wanted a 1957 T-Bird. My parents were opposed to

me buying a used car," he said. Their opposition was based on a prevailing view, shared by many wary consumers, that pre-owned vehicle purchases is "buying somebody's else's problem."

However, the problem Dr. Brown faced was his parents. He used the college fund they gave him to buy the 1957 T-Bird. "When my folks found

out about it they were (upset)," he said. So upset, in fact, that they cut him out of their will. He was subsequently reinstated.

Undaunted, the then Baylor University graduate student enhanced his T-Bird holdings further. "I bought another 1957 T-Bird to drive," he said as his passion for T-Birds grew while his financial resources

dwindled. The cost for fuel, insurance and housing two of them in a garage for ten bucks a month didn't stop Dr. Brown from enjoying the beauty, grace and elegance that characterizes Thunderbirds.

Now he owns 14 T-Birds that are in tact, with about a half dozen more needing to be rebuilt. He says he has no favorites. "That's my problem, and why I have so many of them," he said.

Dr. Brown is a visionary collector within a hobby that is very costly. "I bought original parts for T-Birds and Lincolns long before I owned them," he said. What cost Dr. Brown \$3 years ago for a vintage 1965-66 T-Bird mirror featuring the T-Bird emblem, today could fetch as much as \$300.

While Dr. Brown considers the 1961-1963 models virtually indestructible because they were so well made, he has learned a few lessons about safeguarding his investment.

"They must be housed in a rain-proof environment where there's no excessive humidity," Dr. Brown said.

He said it is the only way to prevent an owner from uttering the most dreaded four-letter word in the car collector's lexicon: rust.

## T-Bird club draws Brooks faithful

Two former Brooks City-Base scientists were among a small throng of classic car fans who participated in the South Central Regional meet held for the first time in Fredericksburg, Texas, March 25. As charter members of the South Texas Thunderbird Club they viewed T-Birds competing for prizes, and perhaps, see some cars that may be featured at the T-Bird Club International Show to be held in Orlando, Fla., in June.

Dr. Carroll Brown and Clarence Theis, retired Brooks research psychologist and physiologist, respectively, spent the weekend inspecting various T-Birds ranging from the first 1955 model to 2002-2005 retros. Mr. Theis's 2002 sleek black T-Bird won the retro category against a special limited edition 2003 T-Bird, valued at \$47,000, which represented the same model used by James Bond in the movie "Die Another Day."

"This is our annual regional meet. We have about 40 members from Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Mississippi," said event organizer Marilyn Paliani. She said the meet featured various judging categories. T-Birds' original equipment is judged in the 'primary' category, while the 'driver's' category (cars that are not trailored) do not have their engine or trunk judged. Other categories include 'touring' for T-Birds that sport such things

as radial tires as an adaptation for safety purposes, and 'modified' featuring customized things as elongated tail pipes. The retro category features the commemorative 50th anniversary T-Bird series.

"We are a husband-wife club, with about 3,600 members internationally," says T-Bird Club International president Lou Paliani about the organization formed in 1968. He said the Ford Motor Company created the first T-Birds in 1955 in response to General Motors' foray into the sports car market in 1954 with the Corvette. "Ford's motto for T-Birds was 'unique in all the world,'" said Mr. Paliani, 61, from Pittsburgh, Pa. who started collecting them in 1990.

— By Rudy Purificato



**The South Texas Thunderbird Club, which includes several former Brooks employees, showcased many vintage T-Birds during its regional meet March 25 in Fredericksburg, Texas.**



**This limited edition 2003 T-Bird, owned by Air Force retiree Bill Foster, originally cost \$47,000. This model was featured in the James Bond movie "Die Antother Day."**





# Last-second shot ends Brooks hopes

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

A loose ball that Fort Sam Houston point guard Kevin Dennis converted with 10.7 seconds left in regulation that added to his game-high 30 points, spelled the end to the Brooks men's varsity basketball team's valiant, but ill-fated post-season quest. They were eliminated by the Rangers 80-78 March 31 during the Southwest Military Basketball League championship tournament.

Playing their second elimination game in the double-elimination tourney in back-to-games, the last day of "March Madness" became for Brooks truly maddening. After losing the March 30 tournament opener at Randolph AFB to Laughlin AFB 61-57, Brooks staved off elimination the next day by eliminating Goodfellow AFB 67-56 during the second round.

The win, their first in SWMBL tournament play in two years, was certainly a confidence builder. However, the team's journey to respectability, begun three years ago under head coach Damion Byrd, was abruptly interrupted against a beatable third round opponent that was as nearly exhausted as them.

Guard-heavy without any big men, Fort Sam had earlier experienced utter defeat during a second round beating from league champ and tourney number one seed Lackland AFB. Having dominated the league with an 18-2 season record and 30-5 overall, Lackland crushed Fort Sam by 41 points, forcing the Rangers into a loser's bracket match-up with Brooks.

The elation and relief in having earlier

eliminated Goodfellow AFB evaporated for Brooks against Fort Sam. In the end, Brooks' inability to not fully exploit their opponents' vulnerabilities finally caught up with them.

Their fate was predicted at the outset by a shrewd student of the game who admitted he was rooting for Brooks to succeed because they are a San Antonio team. While scouting the Brooks-Laughlin tourney opener, Lackland AFB head coach Jerome Riley observed, "Brooks is careless with the ball. Their shot selections are not the best that I've seen." Translation: Brooks has a tendency to live and die by the long shot for a quick three.

In the waning moments of their post season, Brooks reverted to the long shot. They had inexplicably abandoned "attacking the basket" inside that they had successfully demonstrated against Goodfellow and during most of the Fort Sam game.

Coach Riley had also earlier observed a Brooks tendency to not consistently exploit player match-ups. Brooks has better guards than Laughlin, but did not take the game to them. Brooks had a slight height advantage against Fort Sam, but it, too, wasn't fully exploited.

The bitter irony for Brooks is knowing they dominated all their opponents in the first half. In all three contests, they led at

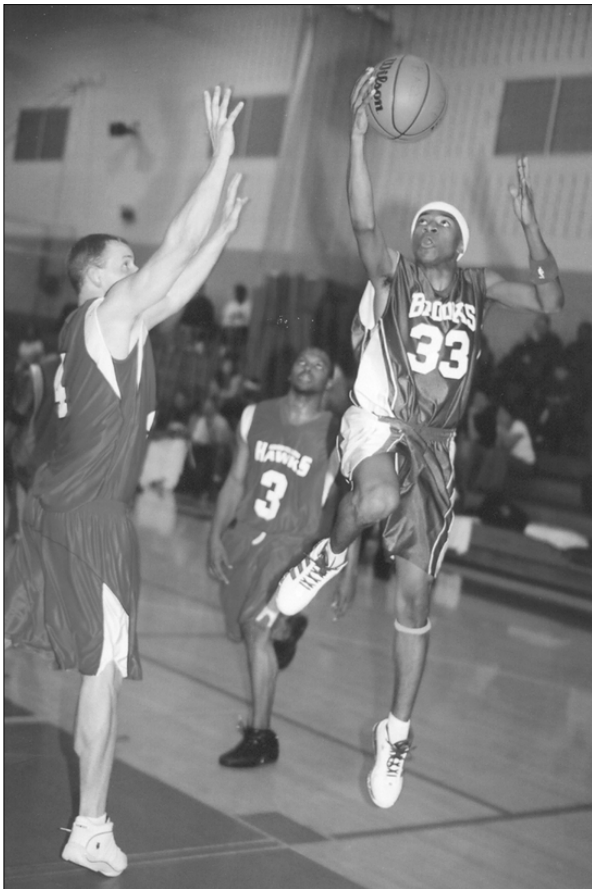


Photo by Rudy Purificato

**Brooks guard Wilman Dean attempts a lay in in a game against Goodfellow Air Force Base in the Southwest Military Basketball League tournament. Brooks eliminated Goodfellow with a home victory.**

half time. They also had the lead midway through the second half in those games, but failed to expand their advantage. Their two loses were close, but in championship play close is not good enough.

Someday, perhaps, they will be good enough to win it all. For now, they must learn from the experience and build upon it. Their day will eventually come. It has been very long overdue.

# Brooks athletes help raise money for AFAF



Photo by Rudy Purificato

**Fitness center specialist Willie Mastin provides a spot for former state powerlifting champion Dennis Abernathy, who lifted 440 pounds to help raise money for the Air Force Assistance Fund.**

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Three sporting events, including one scheduled today at 1:30 p.m. at the fitness center track, have put Brooks City-Base organizers on track to reaching their annual charitable goal support-

ing the Air Force Assistance Fund.

According to 1st Lt. Mary Kelley, 311th Human Systems Wing AFA project officer, the three-point basketball shootout, bench press competition and today's track & field activities collectively are expected to fulfill the Brooks AFAF goal of \$22,843.

"We reached our goal last year. We've already made 75 percent of our goal prior to the bench press competition," Lieutenant Kelley said.

She said it is the first time that sporting events here have been used as the primary source of raising money for AFAF. The majority of money raised here has come from pledges secured by participating athletes.

AFAF supports four major non-profit organizations: the Air Force Aid Society, The General & Mrs. Curtis E. Lemay Foundation, the Air Force Village Indigent Widows' Fund and the Air Force Enlisted Village Indigent Widows' Fund.

Staff Sgt. Jesson Pareja from the Air Force Institute for Operational Health won

the March 24 three-point shootout. "He made 11 three-pointers to win the championship," said event organizer Staff Sgt. Mantangi Johnson with the 311th HSW Commander's Action Group.

Sergeant Pareja was one of five athletes who competed in the event. "They had 20 seconds per station to make as many baskets using five basketballs. The stations were located at the corners and at the top of the key," Sergeant Johnson said.

The March 30 bench press competition produced multiple winners and cash donations based on a penny a pound lifted by event participants. Staff Sgt. Oliver Cook from the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine won the 179 pound & under category with a 330-pound lift.

Senior Airman Lucas Hofstra from the Mission Support Group won the 180-195 pound category with a 295-pound lift. Former state powerlifting champion Dennis Abernathy, with the Mission Support Group's Military Personnel Flight, won the 195 pound and over category with a 440-pound lift. Staff Sergeant Michelle Mitchell from HSW won the women's category with a 125-pound lift.

Today's mini-track & field competition will feature short distances for sprint runners: 100 meters, 400 meters and 4 x 4 relay. Also featured are non-track activities including a football throw, football kick, soccer and Frisbee competition. Entry fee is \$5 for the first event and \$1 for each additional event.

# Sports Day evolves with new changes

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

It has had a few name changes and several modifications have made been to its slate of sports activities over the years. Now, Sports Day 2006 is sporting a new and quite challenging event along with modifications to some existing ones that are collectively designed to enhance the competitive spirit and enjoyment for everyone who participates.

The Brooks Sports Advisory Council voted March 23 to make changes to this annual base-wide activity that is tentatively scheduled for May 26.

The council, composed of unit sports representatives from every organization on base, unanimously approved a recommendation from 311th Human Systems Wing director Eric Stephens to premiere a team relay that involves negotiating an obstacle course on the fitness center field. Five member coed teams will compete in this obstacle course relay that is tentatively planned for noon that day.

"Mr. Stephens suggested this event as a way of helping build unit cohesion," said fitness center specialist Willie Mastin.

This new event does not replace the 4 x 100 relay that has become a staple of track and field competition during Sports Day along with the 100 meter dash. Both these events will be held after the obstacle course relay, between 1-2 p.m.

Among major changes to some popular Sports Day events involves team composition for women's 3 on 3 basketball. The council voted to allow one male member per team, but restricted them from playing inside the key. This change was made to shore up support for women's basketball that, historically, has not had many teams participating due to not having enough players.

Changes in scoring were also made to the 5K run which, along with golf, kicks off Sports Day at 8 a.m. Teams will now earn points for finishing first and second, compared to the old scoring system of averaging the times.

The council also reaffirmed the rule that "game time is forfeit time." Emphasis on this comes in the wake of last year's tug-of-war competition. That event had to be re-scheduled when the 68th Information Operations Squadron did not show up due to an unforeseen last minute work-related obligation.

Sports Days events that remain unchanged are racquetball, volleyball, tennis, 3 on 3 men's basketball, one pitch softball, 4 on 4 flag football and tug-of-war. Exhibition events, that earn zero points, include Ping Pong, horse-shoes and billiards.

The council will meet again Thursday at 10 a.m at Sidney's to finalize the Sports Day agenda.